

FECN11 CWIS 161800

THIRTY DAY FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR MID-JANUARY TO MID-FEBRUARY ISSUED JOINTLY BY THE CANADIAN ICE SERVICE OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA AND THE U.S. NATIONAL ICE CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES ON 16 JANUARY 2004.

Lake Superior

Near normal temperatures were reported during the first two weeks of January over the southern Lake Superior area while the northern portion had below to slightly below normal temperatures. Some ice expansion had occurred during the past 2 weeks along the northwestern coast and in Whitefish Bay but remained about 1 week slower than normal.

Forecast ice conditions from mid-January to January 31st.

Near to slightly above normal temperatures are forecast for the southwestern portion of the lake while the northeastern will have near to below normal temperatures during the third week of January. By the last week of January below normal temperatures will prevail over the entire lake. Moderate ice growth is expected over the period. New and thin lake ice will continue to spread from the northwestern shore between Grand Marais to Marathon and will reach Isle Royale by the fourth week of January. Most of Black and Nipigon Bays will be covered in consolidated medium lake ice while thin and new lake ice covering central Thunder Bay will become consolidated during the third week of January. Thin and new lake ice will continue to grow and expand northward along the southern shore during the last two weeks of January with some medium lake ice forming by the end of the month along the shore. Most of the Apostle Islands will become consolidated by the end of the month with thin and medium lake ice. All of Whitefish Bay will have new and thin lake ice during the third week of January with some consolidated medium lake ice forming along the coastal area at the beginning of the fourth week of January. Areas of thin and new lake ice will continue to form along the coast from Michipicoten Bay southward during the last week of January. The rest of the lake will remain open water to ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from February 01st to February 15th.

Below normal temperatures will continue during the first week of February but will become near normal during the second week. Ice will spread along the entire northwestern shore of the lake by the middle of the month. Some new and thin lake ice will form south of Isle Royale and extend about 5 to 10 miles from the southern shore of the island by mid-February. The ice along the southern shore of Lake Superior will continue to widen and thicken to medium and thin with some areas of thick lake ice. The northern extension of the ice will be about 10 to 25 miles from the shore. Duluth as well as Keweenaw Bay will have consolidated ice by the end of the first week of February. Most of Whitefish Bay will be covered with consolidated medium and thick lake ice while the north-central portion of the bay will have mostly medium and thin lake ice at the end of the first week of February. By mid-month all of the bay will be covered with consolidated medium and thick lake ice. Thin and new with some medium lake ice will become more widespread in Michipicoten Bay and will extend southwards towards Whitefish Bay.

Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Near normal temperatures were reported during the first half of January over southern Lake Huron with below normal temperatures over the rest of the area. As a result the ice extent over the entire Huron Lake region was near normal.

Forecast ice conditions from mid-January to January 31st.

Generally near to slightly below normal temperatures are forecast for the third week of January except for near to slightly above normal for the southern portion. For the last week of January, temperatures will be below to slightly below normal over the entire lake. By the end of the third week of January, all of the North Channel will be consolidated with medium and thin lake ice. Ice south of Manitoulin Island westward to the Straits of Mackinac will continue to expand southward with thin and new lake ice. The ice just east of the Straits of Mackinac along the coast will become consolidated by the end of third week of January. By the end of the month the extreme northwestern portion of the lake east of the Straits of Mackinac will be consolidated with medium and thin lake ice. Consolidated Ice will begin to form along the shore of Saginaw Bay during the third week and will be completely consolidated by the end of January. The rest of the coastal area of Lake Huron will see ice growth and expansion during the second half of the month. Continued expansion of thin and new lake ice in northeastern Georgian Bay will progress southwards and cover most of the bay by the end of month. The entrance to the bay will have some thin and new lake ice during the period. Elsewhere in Lake Huron open water will prevail.

Forecast ice conditions from February 01st to February 15th.

Below normal temperatures will invade the area during the first week of February with near normal values for the second week. Ice south of Manitoulin Island westward will expand southward to about 10 to 20 miles from the shore and thicken to medium and thin with some thick lake ice by the middle of the month. The northwestern portion of the lake just east of the Straits of Mackinac will be covered in medium and thick lake ice by the end of the first week of February with consolidated thick and medium lake ice in and around the Straits of Mackinac. The ice along the western shore of Lake Huron will grow eastward and thicken to thin and medium lake ice. The ice in Thunder Bay and Northern Saginaw Bay will be mostly medium and thick by mid-month. The southern portion of the lake will be covered with thin and medium lake ice with thick lake ice located along the shore. Medium and thick lake ice will hug the eastern shore from the Bruce Peninsula southward by the middle of month. The ice type in Georgian Bay will be medium and thick in most of the bay with thin and new lake ice near the northeastern coast.. The rest of Lake Huron will remain mainly open water.

Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair

Temperatures during the first two weeks of January were above normal over the western portion of the region while near to slightly below normal temperatures were observed for eastern Lake Erie. Lake St Clair and the Western Basin have become completely covered with ice with some areas of ice along the shore elsewhere in Lake Erie. Ice conditions are about one week slower than normal.

Forecast ice conditions from mid-January to January 31st.

Temperatures will be near to slightly below normal for the last half of January. Ice in Lake St Clair will thicken to medium and thin lake ice. Some coastal consolidated ice will develop during the third week of January. Consolidated ice will cover most of Lake St Clair with mostly medium lake ice by the end of the month. However, the ice should remain mobile in the southern portion of the lake at the entrance to the Detroit River at this time. Ice will also thicken to the medium and thin lake ice range in the Western Basin and approaches. Elsewhere, new and thin lake ice will continue to form along the shore of Lake Erie especially in the eastern section during the third week of January. By the end of the month most of the lake will be covered with thin and medium lake ice with looser ice concentration in the south central portion of the lake.

Forecast ice conditions from February 01st to February 15th.

Near to below normal temperatures are forecast for the first week of February. Near to slightly above normal temperatures will prevail during the second week of February. All of Lake St Clair will be consolidated by end of the first week of February, Ice in the lake will thicken to medium with some thick lake ice by mid- February. The ice in the Western Basin will thicken to medium and thick lake ice. The rest of the lake will be entirely covered by the end of the first week of February. The ice thickness will range from medium and thin lake ice in the southern portion and thin and new lake ice along the northern shore by mid-month.

Lake Ontario

Near normal temperatures were observed over western Lake Ontario with below normal temperatures in the east during the first two weeks of January. The ice extent was about one week later than normal.

Forecast ice conditions from mid-January to January 31st.

Below to slightly below normal temperatures are forecast for the last two weeks of January. Consolidated ice covers the Bay of Quinte and the St Lawrence River. Ice in Prince Edward Bay will spread southwestward and cover the northeastern and eastern portion of Lake Ontario by the end of the month. New and thin lake ice will continue to develop along the shore of Prince Edward County and extend westward to about Port Hope. Some patches of new lake ice will form elsewhere along the shore of Lake Ontario. The rest of Lake Ontario will be open water to ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from February 01st to February 15th.

Below normal temperatures are forecast for the first week of February. The second week of February will see near to slightly below normal temperatures over the lake. Ice in Prince Edward Bay will continue to expand southwestward and cover most of extreme eastern Lake Ontario by the middle of February. Ice in the area will be mostly medium and thin lake ice. Most of the coastal area from Prince Edward County westward to near Toronto will have a band of thin and new lake ice into the mid-February. Some patches

of thin and new lake ice will form elsewhere along the coast of Lake Ontario. Otherwise open water to ice free will prevail.

Lake Michigan

Above to much above normal temperatures were observed over the entire area except in extreme northern Lake Michigan where near to slightly below normal prevailed for the first half of January. Ice conditions are about one week later than normal.

Forecast ice conditions from mid-January to January 31st.

Temperatures are forecast to be near to slightly above normal during the last two weeks of January except near to slightly below normal for the northern third of the lake. The mobile ice in Green Bay will thicken to thin with some medium lake ice by the end of the third week of January and medium and thick lake ice by the end of the month. The consolidated ice will spread both north and south to cover most of the bay by the end of January. Only the northern portion to the bay will remain mobile by month's end. A narrow band of thin and new ice will develop along the western and southern shore of the lake by the end of January. At the same time, thin to medium lake ice in the northern Lake Michigan will be located about 5 to 10 miles south of Beaver Island. Consolidated ice within 5 miles of the shore in northern Lake Michigan and in the Straits of Mackinac will form during the third week of January. Some new lake ice will form in southern Grand Traverse Bay during the last half of January and will link up with the ice in northern Lake Michigan by the end of January.

Forecast ice conditions from February 01st to February 15th.

Temperatures will be below to slightly below normal for the first week of February and near to slightly above for the second week. The mobile ice in northern Green Bay will become consolidated during the first week of February. Generally the consolidated ice in Green Bay will be mostly thick lake ice except for the northern entrance to the bay where mostly medium lake ice will prevail at the middle of February. Narrow bands of thin and new lake ice with some medium lake ice will persist along the western, southern and eastern shore of the lake. Consolidated thick and medium lake ice will cover the northeastern portion of the lake to about 10 to 15 miles west of the Straits of Mackinac by mid-February.

THE NEXT 30 DAY FORECAST WILL BE ISSUED ON 4 FEBRUARY 2004.
END

Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 31 January, 2004.

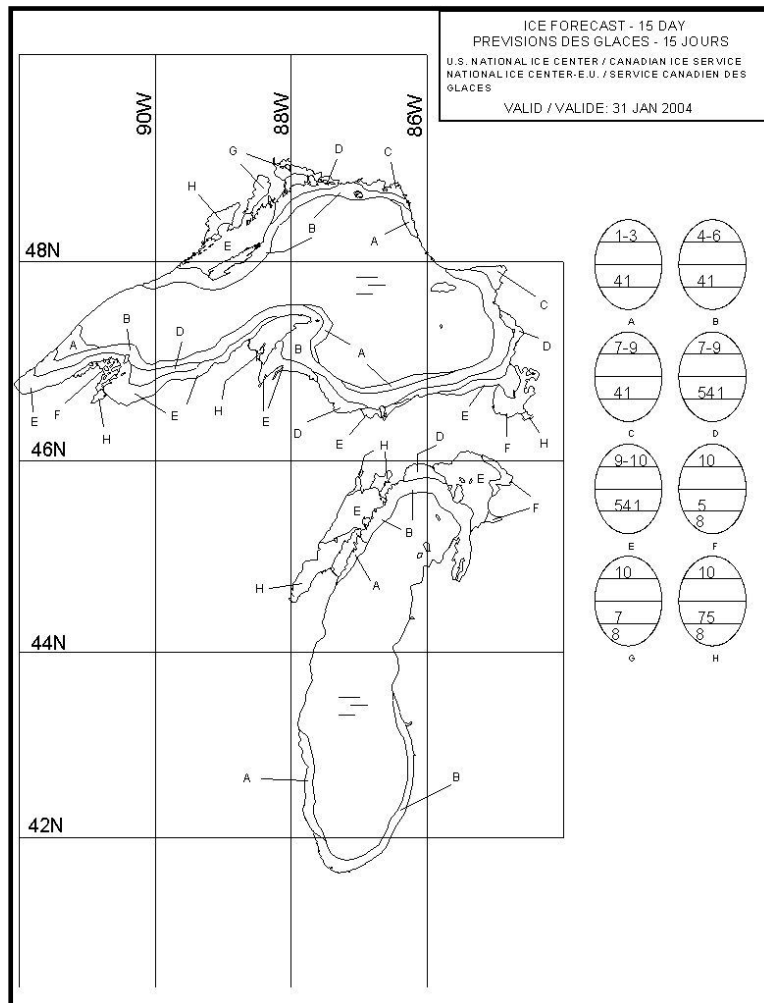


Figure 2: Ice Forecast, Western Great Lakes– 15 February, 2004.

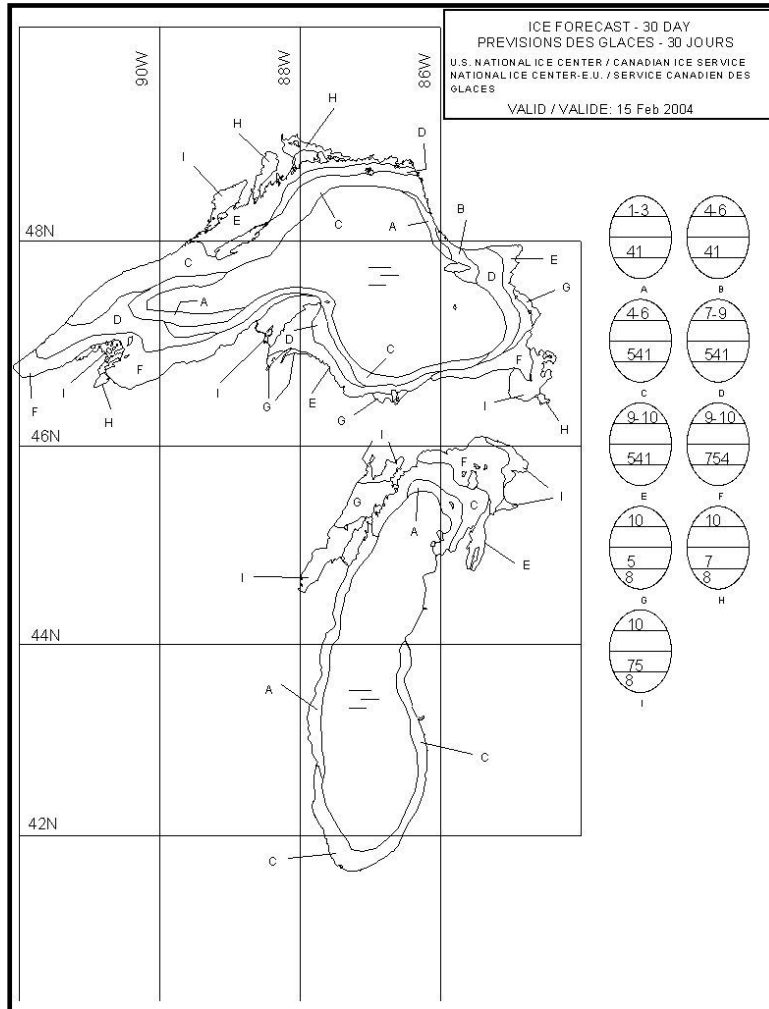


Figure 3: Ice Forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 31 January, 2004.

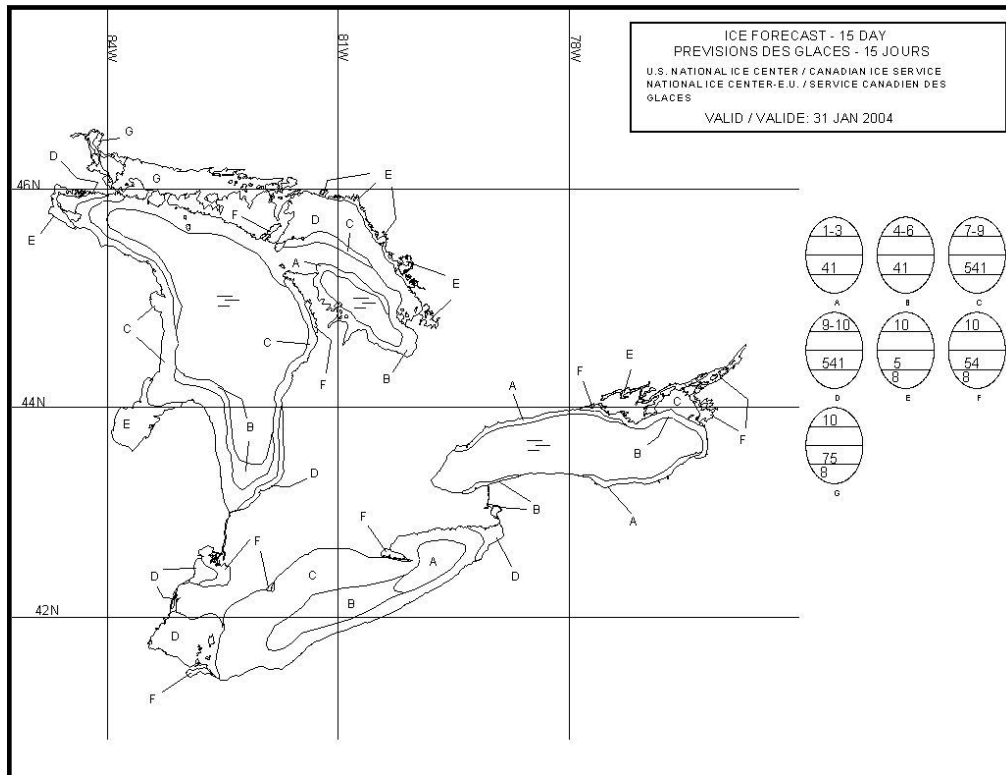


Figure 4: Ice Forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 15 January, 2004.

